

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03286 110518Z

21

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 NSC-06 SS-06 /023 W

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P R 110500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1166

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 3286

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M.), SA

SUBJ: CODEL KENNEDY

REF : A. STATE 105940; B. JIDDA 3232; C. JIDDA 3259

1. DIRECTOR OF WESTERN AFFAIRS FONMINISTRY, ABM. NURI IBRAHIM, CALLED DCM SATURDAY MAY 10 TO CONFIRM SAG'S PREFERENCE THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S PARTY COME DIRECTLY TO RIYADH WITHOUT BEING STAGED THROUGH JIDDA. NURI SAID THIS WAS THE PREFERENCE OF CROWN PRINCE FAHD HIMSELF. COMMENT: WE URGE ITINERARY BE MODIFIED IF POSSIBLE TO PERMIT DIRECT ARRIVAL IN RIYADH.

2. ON FRIDAY MAY 9, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO MINISTER OF PETROLEUM SHAIKH AHMED ZAKI YAMANI THAT SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD BE VISITING SAUDI ARABIA MAY 21-24. YAMANI SUGGESTS THAT SENATOR KENNEDY MAKE HIS CALLS AS SCHEDULED ON THURSDAY MAY 22 AND THAT AFTERNOON HE AND HIS PARTY FLY TO TAIF (ABOUT ONE HOUR FROM RIYADH), WHERE THEY WOULD BE THE MINISTER'S GUESTS OVERNIGHT. A TRADITIONAL BANQUET COULD BE ARRANGED, AND THE OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS THEMSELVES WOULD BE MOST COMFORTABLE. COMMENT: WE THINK THE SENATOR AND HIS PARTY WOULD ENJOY AND FIND USEFUL AN EVENING AT THE YAMANIS'; THIS IDEA HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE SAG PRELIMINARY BRIEFING BOOK THAT WILL BE STUDIED BY THE ROYAL DIWAN AND SOME OF THE SNIOR PRINCES. IT WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH PREVIOUS VIP VISITS, HOWEVER, FOR ALL

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OF THE DETAILS OF THE SENATOR'S ITINERARY NOT TO BECOME

FIRM UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL.

AKINS

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